



NAME: **CAPT MICHAEL MONTELLO**

JOB TITLE: **Head, Protocol and Information Office & Chief, Information Technology Officer**

AGENCY: **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

#### **CURRENT JOB DESCRIPTION:**

Since 1996, CAPT Montello has served as the Head of the Protocol and Information Office and since 1998 has served as the Chief Information and Technology Officer in the Office for the Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program (CTEP) at the National Cancer Institute in Rockville, MD. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is one of 20 institutes under the National Institutes of Health.

As the Head of the Protocol and Information Office, CAPT Montello's duties include the coordination of the administrative portion of the development and implementation of oncology clinical trials to assure patient safety, optimization of scientific objectives, regulatory compliance, and efficient use of resources. In the past, all the research at the NCI was documented on paper. As Chief Information and Technology Officer, CAPT Montello acts as a project manager to develop software to improve the efficiency of oncology clinical trials at the NCI by leveraging technology. To date CTEP has developed twenty-plus different applications to support clinical trials. Many of these tools have been adopted by the oncology community as the gold-standard.

A key challenge he faces is eliminating under-representation of minorities in clinical trials. He has established methods to identify the under recruitment of both minority and underserved populations in cancer studies. His efforts have resulted in an increase of over 25% minority recruitment to NCI trials.

#### **EDUCATION/DEGREES/CERTIFICATES/INSTITUTIONS:**

CAPT Montello received his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy in 1984 and Master of Science in Pharmacology in 1986 from St. John's University in New York. He received his Doctorate in Pharmacy in 2000 from Creighton University and a Master of Business Administration in Project Management this past year from Aspen University.

CAPT Montello completed a Clinical Pharmacy Residency with rotations in Pharmaceutical Development, Drug Information, Oncology, Administration, Infectious Disease and Mental Health from 1989 to 1990 at the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center, Bethesda, MD.

**QUALIFYING SKILLS FOR CURRENT POSITION:**

- Master of Business Administration (2005)
- Doctor of Pharmacy (2000)
- Pharmacy Residency in General/Clinical Pharmacy (1990)
- Master of Pharmacology (1986)
- Bachelor of Pharmacy (1984)
- Sixteen years in various positions with the National Cancer Institute

**REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE USPHS AS A CAREER:**

In my interview with CAPT Montello he reflected on his reasons for joining the Public Health Service and the quality of life it has afforded him. He mentioned that he's been "offered a variety of career path opportunities that otherwise he would not have had in the private sector."

**PREVIOUS USPHS ASSIGNMENTS:**

CAPT Montello began his career in the Public Health Service in 1988 as a Staff Pharmacist at the Zuni Indian Health Service (IHS) Hospital in New Mexico. While working for the IHS, he completed a Clinical Pharmacy Residency in 1990 at Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD, the hospital for the National Institutes of Health. After his residency, he went on to take a position at Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center as a Clinical Pharmacist working with the Home Health Care of Pediatric Oncology and AIDS patients.

CAPT Montello then held various positions at the National Cancer Institute that helped prepare him for his current position. He was a Clinical Research Pharmacist for the Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program from 1991 to 1997 and while in this position acted as the Pharmaceutical Distribution Manager from 1995 to 1997 that included coordination of the global investigational drug distribution activities for the National Cancer Institute's treatment program. CAPT Montello has held his current position as Chief Technology Officer since 1998 and Head of the Protocol and Information Office since 1996.

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS/ACTIVITIES:**

In addition to his position at the National Cancer Institute, CAPT Montello is the Chief Pharmacy Officer for the PHS-1 DMAT (Disaster Medical Assistance Team) under the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). In this position, CAPT Montello coordinates the activities of 10-15 pharmacists, oversees the cache of pharmaceutical supplies needed for deployments, and creates pediatric dosing cards for possible mass casualty events. He has deployed for disaster relief more than 20 times since 1994. He has deployed with the CDC Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) program and has been an active member of several SNS committees and training programs. He has also participated in the PHS

Mentoring Program, COA and served as an alternate to the PharmPAC (Pharmacy Professional Advisory Committee).

**MOST REWARDING USPHS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

CAPT Montello mentioned that his most rewarding US Public Health Service professional experience has been “deploying to help people in their time of need and make a meaningful contribution in a desperate situation.”

**SPECIAL NOTES OF INTEREST:**

CAPT Montello offers the following advice to junior officers, “take advantage of all that the Public Health Service has to offer including the educational benefits, deployment opportunities, and vast array of career opportunities.”

*By LCDR Karen McNabb-Noon*